IMPERIAL BUREAU OF ANIMAL HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT
upon the
HEALTH OF BLACKBURN
For the Year 1939,

BY

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Public Health Department,
Victoria Street,
BLACKBURN.

7th November, 1940.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Health of the Borough during 1939. In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, instructions which you endorsed, the Report has been curtailed to include only essential matters. Comprehensive statistics covering the year, though not embodied in this report, are, however, available both for the purpose of future record and for the information of members of the Committee who may desire more detailed information than is hereunder submitted.

I should like to pay special tribute to the staff of the Health Department for the loyal and enthusiastic way in which they have, without exception, discharged both their own normal duties whilst filling gaps occasioned by the departure of certain colleagues and have, at the same time, surrendered much of their leisure to A.R.P. duties. My sincere thanks are tendered to them.

To you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen, I express my great appreciation of your unfailing help in the present period of difficulty.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

VITAL STATISTICS.

	1939
Area (in Acres)	8,080
Population (Census, 1931)..	122,697
" (Estimated middle of 1939)..	111,600
Number of Inhabited Houses (1931)	32,696
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1931) ...	33,815
Rateable Value	£729,124
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate..	£2,797
Rate in the £ (excluding Water) 1938-39	13/6 +
Gross Expenditure on Health Social Services.. ...	£68,359
Income on Health Social Services.	£21,494 *
Net Expenditure on Health Social Services	£46,865

+ Subject to 2½% discount for early payment, making a net rate of 13/1.95d.

* This sum does not include any money received through the Block Grant.

Live Births (Legitimate ... 1294) M. 673) Birth Rate. 12.1
(Illegitimate ... 61) F. 682)

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth, from:-

Sepsis	0)	0.00)	per 1,000
Other Causes ...	6)	4.18)	births & stillbirths

Still Births	79
Rate per 1,000 tatal births	55.0

Deaths ... ... (M. 821) 1732 Death Rate... 15.5
(F. 911)

Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions	53.2

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births:-

Legitimate	56.4
Illegitimate..	81.9
All Infants...	57.5

Deaths rate from Measles (all ages)..	0.01
" Whooping Cough (all ages). ...	0.01
" Diarrhoea (under two years of age) (Per 1,000 births).	1.48
" Cancer (all ages)...	1.96

VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1939.

Wards	Population	Births	Deaths	Birth-Rate	Death-Rate	Deaths under one year per 1000 Births.	Death-rate from six Zymotic Diseases excluding Diarrhoea	Death-rate from Diarrhoea	Death-rate from Bronchitis & Pneumonia	Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Death-rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
St. Stephen's	12019	184	188	15.3	15.6	48	0.08	0.00	3.32	0.43	0.16
Trinity	7299	81	119	11.0	15.0	7[illegible]	0.13	0.00	3.83	0.00	0.00
St. Michael's	7812	99	111	12.8	[illegible]	60	0.00	[illegible]	2.17	0.59	0.11
St. John's	5926	73	84	12.3	14.1	27	0.00	0.00	4.05	0.[illegible]	0.00
St. Giles's	8281	74	160	[illegible]	9.5	27	0.00	0.00	2.53	0.24	0.12
St. Paul's	8124	103	1[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.1[illegible]	0.0	3.32	0.98	0.00
St. Peter's	5647	50	73	8.8	11.1	60	0.17	0.00	2.65	0.70	0.00
St. Mary's	[illegible]	59	[illegible]	[illegible]	18.[illegible]	5[illegible]	0.0[illegible]	0.21	3.0[illegible]	[illegible]	0.00
St. Matthew's	7778	100	1[illegible]2	13.5	15.7	[illegible]	0.13	0.00	2.57	0.5[illegible]	0.11
St. Thomas's	10234	99	1[illegible]6	[illegible]	[illegible]	50	0.2[illegible]	0.03	1.66	0.19	0.00
Park	8236	129	126	15.6	15.2	93	0.30	0.00	3.15	0.12	0.12
St. Luke's	6674	87	98	13.0	14.6	80	0.15	0.00	2.99	0.74	0.13
St. Mark's	9073	91	12[illegible]	10.0	13.4	33	0.00	0.00	2.31	0.66	0.11
St. Andrew's	9819	120	16[illegible]	12.2	16.3	50	0.00	0.00	3.36	0.30	0.00
Borough	111600	1355	1732	12.1	15.5	57	0.10	0.01	2.93	0.43	0.07

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER. The usual chemical and bacteriological examinations of samples of water have been carried out, and the results on the whole have been good.

HOUSING.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected..... 2201

Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 112

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority 884

Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 176
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
(a) By owners 166
(b) By local authority in default of owners 5

Shortage both of labour and building materials has led the Health Committee to adopt a more lenient attitude towards housing repairs than is their normal policy, and their requirements are temporarily restricted to remedy of the more obvious defects and to the abatement of nuisance. In consequence many of the properties affected (particularly those of older type) will inevitably deteriorate further, and certain of them now capable of being made fit at reasonable expense will pass out of that category and become subject to action under Section 11 of the Act.

Eight individual houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Four of them either have been, or are now being, reconditioned, four have been closed, and a further one (submitted in 1938) was demolished.

War conditions have led to a slowing down of housing

activity. Had times been normal approximately 150 dwellings would have been represented as suitable to be dealt with by way of clearance. The clearance "waiting" programme comprised, at the end of 1939, approximately 300 dwellings. None of the proposed areas is large, the largest comprising 30 houses only.

Fourteen areas containing 104 dwellings were the subject of an enquiry held in August.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 107

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
(a) By owners 101
(b) By local authority in default of owners 1

OVERCROWDING.

Threehundred and fifty eight families have been found alternative accommodation, or have arranged their own removal, to other houses since the overcrowding census was completed.

(a) Found other accommodation 245
(b) Deaths, removals, &c. 113

NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Dwellinghouses.....	2527	Water Closets	162
Bakehouses	368	Pail Closets	-
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops	2	Offensive Trades	50
Ice Cream Manufacturers.	-	Common Lodging Houses	24
Workshops	6	Other Premises &c.	479
Drains	155		

The total number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors was 20904.

At the end of the year action was pending or work actually in progress in respect of premises upon the owners of which informal (212) and formal (60) notices had been served.

FOOD SUPPLY.

MILK. One hundred and thirty three samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination, of which 2 were found not to be genuine. In addition 894 samples were examined for the presence of dirt.

The average composition of samples of milk was 3.58% of fat and 8.99% of other solids.

The Clean Milk Competition again attracted a large number of entries. Samples submitted to bacteriological and chemical examination indicated satisfactory methods of production, and visits paid to farm premises proved the increasing care and attention to detail which the farmers are paying to milk production.

OTHER FOODS

Four hundred and thirty five samples of other foods and drugs were sent for analysis and 16 were found to be adulterated. Appropriate steps were taken in each of the latter cases.

MEAT AND FISH.

(a) Cattle Market.

Approximate number of animals exposed for sale:-

2269 Cattle, 3926 Sheep, 1542 Calves, 11 Pigs & 6 Horses.

(b) Public Abattoir.

The number of animals slaughtered was 76578, and was made up as follows:-

Beasts 6989, Sheep 61130, Calves 1581, Pigs 6478.

Seven hundred and four animals showed signs of tuberculosis and 78 carcases were totally rejected.

Three hundred and seventy eight carcases were rejected for diseases other than tuberculosis.

(c) Other Foodstuffs.

Rejects included fish (52 boxes, ½ barrel and 359 lbs. loose), rabbits (1191), tinned meat (59), tinned fruit (791), pears (200 lbs.), oranges (1 case), potatoes (9 cwts.), cauliflowers (15 crates), turnips (2 cwts.) and tomatoes (1 tray).

(d) Visits.

Four thousand six hundred and thirty seven visits were paid to butchers' shops, &c., during the year.

FERTILIZERS & FEEDING STUFFS.

Eleven samples were taken, 3 of which did not conform to the Statutory Statement. Appropriate steps were taken in the three latter cases.

ICE CREAM.

Six hundred and ninety two visits were paid in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

The Ice Cream Competition again proved very successful, and attracted a large number of competitors. The majority of samples examined were of high nutritive value and bacteriologically satisfactory.

Once more an all round improvement was noted in the methods employed, and in the standard of equipment provided.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 1088 visits were paid to food preparing premises. Generally speaking both the premises and methods employed were found to be satisfactory.

During 1939 and the present year the majority of premises subject to registration under the above Act have been registered. In certain instances registration is being held up pending provision of such facilities as the installation of hot water plant, washing facilities, sterilising equipment, etc.

GENERAL INSPECTION.

All premises from which food is purveyed are closely supervised. A total of 4647 visits was made to fish shops (795), grocers (952), butchers' shops (2050), meat market (240), fish market (342), and railway siding (258).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

VACCINATION.

Of the 1520 births registered, 399 children only were successfully vaccinated. The number of exemptions was 887.

CORPORATION HOSPITAL.

Three hundred and thirty cases of infectious disease were removed to Hospital. There were 15 deaths. The average number of hospital patient-days was 33, and the average number of beds occupied was 28.1.

In addition to the above, 93 cases of Tuberculosis were treated, of which number 16 died.

One thousand nine hundred and forty specimens were examined at the Hospital laboratory.

All cases (95) of Diphtheria notified were removed to Hospital. The disease was of fairly severe type, giving a mortality rate of 9.47 per cent. Speaking generally the patients had received adequate antitoxin treatment prior to Hospitalisation

Scarlet Fever cases were, on the whole, of mild type. Of 192 cases notified 139 (66 per cent) were removed to hospital. Practically all removals were in respect of persons whose home circumstances did not permit efficient isolation and/or nursing care.

During the year Reconstruction and Modernisation of Ward II was completed; that of Ward IV was put in hand and has been

completed during the present year.

PREVENTION OF DIPHTHERIA & SCARLET FEVER.

Two hundred and ninety seven school children and 49 pre-school children received Anti-Diphtheria treatment. Alum precipitated toxoid (B.W.) was employed in the case of those under 10 years of age, and those in the 10+ age group received toxoid-antitoxin floccules (B.W.).

Eleven persons were tested for Scarlet Fever susceptibility.

GENERAL.

A total of 143 cases of Measles was brought to the notice of the Department by formal notification or otherwise during the year. Although measles serum is not used in the Borough, immune globulin is available for general practitioners and is employed at the Hospital to prevent ward cross-infection.

Fourteen cases of Dysentery occurred during the year, and all recovered. The cases were Sonne infection.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

One hundred and ninety cases (88 pulmonary and 31 non-pulmonary) were notified during the year.

There were 57 (47 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary) deaths in 1939. This is the lowest annual number of deaths recorded in the Borough. The decrease is, however, fortuitous and offers no cause for complacency since during the present year (1940) a high tuberculosis death rate is rapidly neutralising the favourable figures of 1939.

Medical practitioners referred 257 cases to the Dispensary for examination by the Tuberculosis Officer, who also held 621 consultations with private practitioners. Dispensary attendances numbered 2994; 739 X-Ray and 656 Bacteriological examinations were made. Eighty-nine Contacts were investigated at the dispensary, making 2495 visits for the purpose.

The nurse made 2241 Visits to homes of patients.

In-Patient arrangements have been fully described in previous reports. The use made of available facilities for pulmonary cases was Meathop 11 cases admitted with one death and ten discharges, Delamere 2 cases (1 death, 1 discharge), and the Corporation Hospital 81 cases (73 discharges, 17 deaths). In addition two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted to, and 3 discharged from, the Corporation Hospital. Three cases received treatment at the Robert Jones Hospital, and 1 was discharged. Queen's Park Hospital receives both pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases, and during the year 31 cases were admitted, 28 patients were discharged and 7 died.

Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 11 cases at the Corporation Hospital.

A total of 150 refills was carried out at the Corporation Hospital.

Mr. Briggs conducts regular Orthopaedic Clinics at the Health Department, and advised upon 47 cases of bone and joint tuberculosi which he treated as necessary. The majority of cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Mr. Briggs' beds at Queen's Park and selected cases are sent to the Robert Jones Hospital, Oswestry.

A total of 34 patients received Dental Treatment and necessitous cases requiring artificial dentures have been given financial assistance.

V E N E R E A L D I S E A S E S.

Appended are particulars of cases treated under the Council's scheme during 1939:-

Royal Infirmary.	M.	F.	Total.
New Cases - Venereal	201	73	274
- Non Venereal	233	154	387
Discharged cured	368	146	514
Ceased to attend	123	62	185
Transferred to other Centres	36	20	56
Attendances			15653
In-patient treatment	21	3	24
Health Department.			
New Cases - Venereal	2	34	36
- Non Venereal	-	73	73
Discharged cured	-	79	79
Ceased to attend	2	33	35
Transferred to other Centres	-	1	1
Attendances	-	-	1130
In-patient treatment	-	-	-

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

One hundred and forty nine sessions were held, at which 800 cases made 3407 attendances. There were 81 cases of abnormal labour.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

Forty-four sessions were held, and 83 cases made 130 attendances. Forty-nine cases were abnormal.

MIDWIVES.

Forty-nine midwives notified their intention to practice during the year. Of these 43 remained in practice at the end of the year.

Four hundred and thirty three medical aid forms were received.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

An additional midwife (making six) was appointed for the Municipal Midwifery purposes. During the year the Municipal Midwifery service dealt with 482 midwifery cases and 89 maternity cases. Ante-natal visits numbered 7599, and there were 9134 visits to midwifery cases and 1191 visits to maternity cases.

CONSULTATION CLINICS.

Forty seven clinics were held, and 394 attendances were made, 68 cases were referred by general practitioners, and 326 cases referred from Clinics and other sources.

OBSTETRIC CONSULTATIONS.

The number of domiciliary consultations during the period January to July, when Dr. Potter joined his army unit, was 110, viz:-

Ante-natal 22, Natal 64, Post-natal 24.

Treatment was carried out at the Royal Infirmary in 33 cases, Queen's Park Hospital 25, Springfield Municipal Maternity Home 14, Corporation Hospital 7 and 31 at home.

SPRINGFIELD MUNICIPAL MATERNITY HOME.

Three hundred and seven cases were admitted, and the average duration of stay was 14 days. Two hundred and seventy seven cases were delivered, 204 by the staff and 73 by doctors. There was one maternal death due to Cerebral Haemorrhage. There were 15 stillbirths, and 4 babies died within 10 days.

Thirty-two ante-natal clinic sessions were held, and 721 attendances were made (134 first visits, and 587 reattendances). Five cases were admitted for ante-natal treatment, and 3 cases transferred to Hospital.

The "Emergency Unit" has been called out on three occasions during the year.

QUEEN'S PARK HOSPITAL.

Four hundred and five cases were admitted during the year, and the average duration of stay was 14.6 days. Four hundred and twenty four cases were delivered, 396 by midwives and 28 by doctors. There were 2 maternal deaths from ante-partum haemorrhage and eclampsia respectively. There were 37 stillbirt

and 25 babies died within 10 days.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Twenty-three cases were notified, 18 of which resided in the Borough. Nine cases occurred in institutions. All the cases recovered.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Avoidable.
1. Post partum haemorrhage.
2. Obstetric Shock : Acute inversion of uterus.
3. Shock : Ante-partum haemorrhage. Placenta praevia.
4. Cardiac failure due to acute mania following Caesarean Section.

Possibly Preventable.
5. Toxaemia due to pelvic cellulitis.
6. Caesarean Section : Acute dilatation.

STILLBIRTHS.

One hundred and two cases of stillbirth were notified, 77 of which were Borough cases and 25 out of the Borough.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS.

Seventy-four infants died within two months of birth.

PREMATURE BIRTHS.

There were 69 premature infants born during the year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year there were 78 deaths of infants under one year of age. This figure gives an infantile mortality rate of 57 per 1000 live births registered.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Fourteen cases were notified during the year, 2 of which resided outside the Borough. All the cases recovered with the exception of one child, whose vision was impaired. At the time of notification it resided outside the Borough, but later the parents came to reside in the Borough.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

There were 41395 attendances, and 6414 consultations with

doctors.

Expectant mothers made 1293 attendances.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The Dentists held 9 sessions for Maternity Cases, at which 87 mothers and 177 children were treated.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The Health Visitors made a total of 18988 visits during the year, and assisted at 1575 Clinics.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

The number of beds at Viewfield Hostel is 13. Nine new cases were admitted and 11 discharged.

SUPPLY OF MILK FREE OR AT LESS THAN COST PRICE.

Six hundred and fifteen new cases were dealt with during the year, and there were 359 cases on the books at the end of the year. A total of 47787 lbs. of dried milk was supplied during the period under review.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Eight new cases were notified during the year. One case removed out of the Borough, and 3 returned to their parents. Seven cases remain on the register and all are satisfactory.

NURSING & MATERNITY HOMES.

No new Nursing or Maternity Homes were opened during the year.